

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 000564 TOSEC 250136

NODIS

FOL REPEAT OF TEL AVIV 0001 TO SECSTATE JAN 01

QTE:

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 0001

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US, XF, UN

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO RABIN

REF: STATE 000170

1. I SAW RABIN AT 1530 TODAY IN HIS TEL AVIV OFFICE AND HANDED HIM PRESIDENT'S LETTER. RABIN READ LETTER CAREFULLY, SAID HE COMPLETELY UNDERSTOOD CONTENTS BUT WOULD DEFER ANY FORMAL COMMENT UNTIL AFTER FURTHER STUDY AND DISCUSSION ALLON'S MANDATE WITH CABINET AT SUNDAY MEETING.

2. PRIME MINISTER THEN EXPRESSED HOPE BOTH SIDES COULD KEEP SECRET FACT THERE HAD BEEN PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE. I SAID THIS WOULD BE NO PROBLEM FOR US, BUT FROM PAST EXPERIENCE HE WOULD UNDERSTAND I WAS NATURALLY DUBIOUS AS TO ISRAELI ABILITY
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KEEP LID ON. WINCING, RABIN SAID HE WOULD DO HIS BEST MAINTAIN

SECRECY. HE WOULD, OF COURSE, INFORM ALLON BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE MONDAY, BUT AS FAR AS FULL CABINET CONCERNED HE WOULD SIMPLY SAY AMERICAN AMB-SSADOR HAD MET WITH HIM THURSDAY TO SET FORTH US GOVT POSITION ON SECURITY COUNCIL JAN. 12 MEETING BEFORE SUNDAY CABINET MEETING AND AMB'S MONDAY DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON. REFLECTING SUBSTANCE OF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, RABIN WOULD INFORM CABINET (1) US CONTINUED TO BELIEVE ISRAEL SHOULD ATTEND SC MEETING AND (2) US CONSIDERS ISRAELI POSITION ON 242 AND 338 OVERLY RIGID AND INSISTS ON SOME FLEXIBILITY WITH REGARD TO FORMULATION CONCERNING PALESTINIAN ISSUE. IF I AGREED WITH HIS INTERPRETATION OF PRESIDENT'S LETTER, HE WOULD STRESS TO CABINET THAT US ATTACHED PRIMARY IMPORTANCE TO LATTER QUESION AND THAT ATTENDANCE ISSUE WAS SECONDARY. I SAID I COULD NOT KNOW PRECISELY WHAT PRESIDENT HAD IN MIND, BUT I FELT, ON BASIS MY READING PRESIDENT'S LETTER, HIS INTERPRETATION OF OUR PRIORITIES WAS PLAUSIBLE.

3. I TOLD RABIN I FELT HIS SUGGESTED PROCEDURE WAS MANAGEABLE FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW; WE WOULD STAY BUTTONED UP, AND I HOPED HE COULD CONTROL HIS MINIONS BOTH HERE AND IN WASHINGTON. RE LATTER, RABIN SAID HE WOULD INFORM DINITZ--DUE BACK IN WASHINGTON SUNDAY--OF SUBSTANCE PRESIDENT'S LETTER AND AGREED PROCEDURE FOR MAINTAINING SECRECY.

4. I TOLD RABIN IT WOULD BE HELPFUL BOTH TO ME AND WASHINGTON IF I COULD HAVE READOUT OF SUNDAY CABINET MEETING BEFORE MY DEPARTURE. RABIN SAID HE WOULD SEE ME SUNDAY NIGHT IN JERUSALEM, HE WOULD TELEPHONE ME SUNDAY MORNING TO FIX EXACT TIME OF MEETING.
TOON UNQTE ROBINSON

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